unemployment survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation during 1999-2000, educated unemployed youth (with Secondary and Higher qualifications in the age group 15 years and above) on usual status basis were around 54.8 lakhs. Number of educated job seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the live register of employment exchanges as on 31st December 2002 (latest available) was around 296.7 Lakhs.

(b) and (c) Government is targeting creation of 5 crore job opportunities over the 10th Plan period. This will help the educated unemployed youth also.

Percentage of domestic working children

450. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of children below the age of 14 working as domestic workers in the country;

(b) the cases of violence, abuse and ill treatment of child labour reported during the last one year; and

(c) whether Government propose to regulate the domestic labour to ensure their human rights?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) Separate data on domestic child labour is not available.

(b) The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 does not cover the issues of violence, abuse and ill treatment, hence, the information on these issues is not maintained by the Ministry of Labour.

(c) Domestic workers are a part of the large unorganised sector. Government feels that a separate legislation to regulate domestic workers is not necessary at this stage.

Exploitation of labourers

451. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that majority of labourers of exporting units in NOIDA, Okhla, New Delhi are contract workers, deprived of minimum wages, increment, bonus, ESI, PF and other

benefits and many of them are forced to sign on two vouchers, one a blank and another showing an amount decided by the contractor; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take against such inhuman exploitation of labourers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) As per information received from the respective Governments as well as from Noida Special Economic Zone some complaints have been received from all categories of workers including contract workers of all units including exporting units in NOIDA and OKHLA, New Delhi in regard to minimum wages, Bonus, ESI, Provident Fund and other benefits. However, complaints alleging that the workers are forced to sign two vouchers one blank and another showing the amount decided by the contractor, has not been reported.

(b) On receipt of the complaints, the same are investigated and remedial action is taken. The Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO), Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), Noida Special Economic Zone and the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and National Capital Territory of Delhi have been requested to conduct special drives in these areas for ensuring compliance with the various labour laws.

Toilet facilities for women workers at work places

452. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the pathetic working conditions of women in the informal sectors where no separate toilets exist for the women workers who have to work for longer hours without proper rest; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are going to take against such barbarity on women workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the need to ameliorate the working conditions of women workers.

Several laws have been enacted to secure reasonable working conditions for women workers and to prevent their exploitation. These include the Factories Act, 1948, the Plantation Labour Act, 1951, the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, the Inter-State